

Closing the Distribution Gap of *Lobotes surinamensis* in the Aegean Sea by Citizen Science

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Aim of the study: The present study aims to report occurrence of the thermophilic non-native fish species, *Lobotes surinamensis*, in the Aegean Sea. in cooperation with citizen science.

Material and Methods: On 13 December 2016, a single specimen of *L. surinamensis* was caught by hard-line, at a depth of 80 m on a sandy-mud bottom from close to Tuzla Bight (36.5553° N, 28.0200° E), SE Aegean Sea. Fishermen declared that the specimen approximated 35-40 cm in total length and 1.5-2.0 kg in weight. The specimen was released by fishermen in case it could be dangerous. However, they provided species information as video for, Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Faculty of Fisheries. The video was uploaded as an electronic reference and can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/2xToua9Cj4Y>

Results: Increment in existence of *L. surinamensis* confirms that Aegean Sea changes into hotspot because of faunistic connection between Aegean Sea and Atlantic, as well as Red Sea. This finding revealed that further research to determine and monitoring of a non-native species are required.

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Keywords: *L. surinamensis*, non-native fish, Aegean Sea